

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tamika Whitmore on her stellar basketball career at the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly has viewed with great interest and excitement the recent resurgence in the University of Memphis women's basketball program, a resurgence that has included three consecutive Conference USA championships; and

WHEREAS, a major reason for the Lady Tigers' tremendous success is the outstanding play of senior center Tamika Whitmore; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Tamika led her Tupelo high school teams to a great three-year record of 66-29; and during her senior season, she averaged 28.4 points and 16.8 rebounds per game, shot 74% from the field, finished second in the state in the prestigious Miss Lady Hoopers competition, and was chosen the Mississippi-Alabama All-Star game Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, while only a freshman (1995-1996) in college, she averaged 10.4 points and 5.1 rebounds per game, was the Kitchens Unlimited-Union Planters Bank Lady Tigers Classic Most Valuable Player, and was a finalist for the Conference USA Sixth Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore (1996-1997), this star player ranked second in the conference in scoring with a 20.0 average, posted a .607 field goal average which was

tenth best in the nation, made 43 steals, posted 11 double-double games, and was chosen First Team All-Conference USA and was the Most Valuable Player of both the Dial-St. Johns Classic and the Lady Tigers Classic; and

WHEREAS, during her memorable junior season (1997-1998) number 44 proved herself to be one of the top players in the nation by averaging 26 points per game which ranked fifth in the nation and first in Conference USA; she blocked an incredible 46 shots, a conference record; shot 64.7%, recorded 17 double-double games; scored in double digits in each of her 29 games, and scored at least 20 points in 25 games; scored 30 or more points on eight occasions and scored 40 points once; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments that year were recognized with Kodak All-American Honorable Mention, Conference USA Player of the Year, and Conference USA Player of the Week (three times), honors, selection as one of only 12 players to play on the R. William Jones Cup team that won a Gold Medal, and being listed as one of the top ten athletes under consideration for the Naismith Player of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, as a senior (1998-1999), Tamika closed out an exemplary Lady Tiger hoops career by leading the team to their first national ranking since the 1984-1985 season; she was the national scoring leader with a fine 26.3 per game average, scored in double figures 31 times, started all 31 games at center, and broke the school record with 45 points against Arkansas State; and

WHEREAS, she was honored as a consensus All-American by the *Women's Basketball Journal*, the *United States Basketball Writers Association*, the *Woman's BKB News Service*, and the *Associated Press* (second team); and was chosen Conference USA Player of the Year, All-Conference, All-Tournament and USA Player of the Week (three times); and

WHEREAS, she is the daughter of proud mother Mrs. Gwendolyn Glover; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this gifted athlete on her numerous contributions to the University of Memphis basketball program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Tamika Whitmore upon her exemplary basketball career at the University of Memphis and wish her much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.